AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. **(New)** In a piezoelectric actuator, comprising

a multilayer construction of piezoelectric layers (2) having corners defined by cut edges and inner electrodes (3, 4; 10, 13) disposed between the piezoelectric layers, and

an alternate-side lateral contacting of the inner electrodes (3, 4; 10, 13) with outer electrodes (9; 19, 20), the improvement wherein

the individual inner electrodes (10, 13) are rounded at the corners (11) formed by the cut edges.

6. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 5, wherein

the corners (11) each have a chamfer (16); and wherein the corners of the chamfers are each rounded.

7. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 5, wherein

the rounded features (12; 17) each have a rounding radius of at least 20 μm.

8. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 6, wherein

the rounded features (12; 17) each have a rounding radius of at least 20 μm.

9. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 5, wherein

the piezoelectric actuator (1) can be used for actuating a mechanical component, such as a valve or the like.

10. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 6, wherein

the piezoelectric actuator (1) can be used for actuating a mechanical component, such as a valve or the like.

11. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 7, wherein

the piezoelectric actuator (1) can be used for actuating a mechanical component, such as a valve or the like.

12. **(New)** The piezoelectric actuator according to claim 8, wherein

the piezoelectric actuator (1) can be used for actuating a mechanical component, such as a valve or the like.